

Fact Sheet

Old San Antonio Road at Onion Creek - Bridge Improvement Project

Thursday, June 19th - 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

MANCHACA BAPTIST CHURCH - 1215 W. FM 1626, Manchaca

Facts about the Old San Antonio Road at Onion Creek Bridge Project

Travis County is planning improvements for a new, safer crossing over Onion Creek at Old San Antonio Road. Old San Antonio Road (OSR) is part of a historical route (El Camino Real) and is experiencing increased vehicular and bicycle traffic. The existing bridge is 106' long, narrow one lane structure and requires a line of sight yield condition for opposing directions of traffic. The existing bridge over Onion Creek is regularly overtopped during flood events which poses a threat to public safety and often requires the closure and maintenance of Old San Antonio Road at this location. The improvement project will consist of constructing a new bridge adjacent to the existing bridge and allow the existing bridge to remain in place as a bicycle and pedestrian crossing. The construction of the new bridge and approach roadway is funded through the Travis County 2011 Bond Fund.

The development of the Old San Antonio Road at Onion Creek Bridge Project has three stages.

Stage One - Traffic Control Alternative Analysis

Old San Antonio Road is the primary local roadway access for several adjacent neighborhoods and the Estancia Hill Country development currently under construction. It is also a popular route for bicyclists and serves as an alternate route to IH 35 for local residents. Thus, a traffic control solution that allows for uninterrupted use of Old San Antonio Road over Onion Creek throughout construction of the new bridge is desired. Currently two alternatives for traffic control have been identified. These two alternatives are shown in **Figures 1 and 2** in the enclosed documentation.

Alternative 1 represents the design alternative to place the new bridge downstream of the existing bridge and requires the construction of the new bridge in two phases. Phase One consists of building the entire new bridge as well as one half of the proposed roadway approaches while keeping the existing crossing open to traffic. The existing bridge currently functions as a one lane, two-way crossing, and it will retain this functionality during the first construction phase. The new bridge alignment will be to the east of the existing crossing which will require acquisition of additional right-of-way. Phase Two consists of one lane of traffic (northbound) open on the new bridge and one lane of traffic (southbound) open on the existing crossing while the remaining half of each approach roadway is constructed.

Alternative 2 represents the design alternative to place the new bridge upstream of the existing bridge and also requires the construction of the new bridge in two phases. Phase One will consist of building the full width of the center section of the bridge but only half each end of the proposed bridge and roadway approaches in order to maintain traffic on the existing crossing during construction. The existing bridge currently functions as a one lane, two-way crossing, and it will retain this functionality during the first construction phase. The new bridge alignment will be to the west of the existing crossing which will require acquisition of additional

right-of-way. Phase Two will have one lane of traffic (southbound) open on the new bridge and one lane of traffic (northbound) open on the existing crossing while the remaining bridge sections and roadway approaches are constructed

Both alternatives avoid environmental impacts and are of similar construction cost and duration. Alternative 1 utilizes anticipated donated ROW parcels from the Estancia Hill Country developer and the City of Austin. Alternative 2 requires the purchase of additional right-of-way. Design impacts and key characteristics of the two alternatives are summarized in **Table 1** below:

Table 1: Traffic Control Alternatives

Key Characteristics	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Construction Cost	Moderate	Highest (additional temporary pavement is required)
Construction Duration	Moderate (approx. 8 months)	Longest (approx. 9 months)
Construction Phases	2 phases	2 phases
Roadway Access Characteristics	Traffic is open in both directions during all phases.	Traffic is open in both directions during all phases. Access to Jarrel's Muffler business is impacted.
Right-of-way Acquisition	ROW is required, but it is expected to be donated by the developer and City of Austin.	ROW is required, and it will need to be purchased from the private owners.
Environmental Impacts	No impacts anticipated; historically eligible structure will remain in place.	No impacts anticipated; historically eligible structure will remain in place.

Stage Two – Bridge Design

The second stage of the project includes the design of the new bridge over Onion Creek at Old San Antonio Road and needed roadway approaches. As stated earlier, the existing bridge crossing does not meet current safety and access requirement and is prone to overtopping. The new bridge will reduce the frequency of flooding, improve safety for traffic that uses the bridge, and improve access to adjacent neighborhoods in the area and the new Estancia Hill Country development.

Stage Three – Bridge Construction

During Stage Three, Travis County will construct the new bridge using the preferred Traffic Control Alternative.